



Connecticut Department of Labor

Glenn Marshall, Commissioner

**Public Hearing Testimony of
Glenn Marshall, Commissioner
Department of Labor
Labor and Public Employees Committee
March 8, 2012**

Good Afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Rigby and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding ***House Bill #5239 AAC the Disclosure of Performance Evaluations of the Members of the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration (SBMA) and State Board of Labor Relations (SBLR)***. My name is Glenn Marshall and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

I am here to speak in support of this bill. In the court system, attorneys and others who appear before judges have the opportunity to fill out confidential evaluations of the judges for the Judicial Department. Pursuant to Section 2-40a of the general statutes, the performance evaluations of judges are made available solely to the members of the joint standing committee on judiciary prior to any public hearing on the nomination of any such judge and to the members of the Judicial Selection Commission in the performance of their duties. Many states have confidential evaluations for judges and administrative law judges. The evaluations in almost all circumstances are kept confidential.

H.B.# 5239 would institute that same process for members of the SBLR and SBMA. The evaluation forms will be provided to users of the services of the members of the SBLR and SBMA to evaluate the member's performance. The evaluations shall remain in confidence known only to the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Labor, the Office of the Governor and the individual Board member evaluated.

Although there has not been a problem in the past, the evaluations will be shared with the mediators and will improve their effectiveness. In addition, the DOL Commissioner and Deputy

Commissioner need access to the evaluations so they could appropriately advise the Governor, who appoints the mediators.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today and I am available to answer any questions that you may have.